

**ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE**

A method of removing refractive defects formed in the matrix of a clear cyclic olefin component of a medical device during steam sterilization, wherein the clear polycycloolefin component has been heated to a temperature of between 120°C to 130°C in the presence of steam. The method includes maintaining the polycycloolefin component at a second temperature in a relatively drier atmosphere without reducing the temperature of the polycycloolefin component to ambient temperature. Where the cyclic olefin component is a prefilled medical storage or delivery device, the second temperature is between 80°C and less than 100°C. The method of this invention is particularly suitable to remove refractive defects formed in the matrix of a polycycloolefin barrel of a prefilled syringe or cartridge following terminal sterilization.